

35 years, and it continues to benefit the Hendersonville area in innumerable ways.

Over the past 35 years of dedicated service, the church has seen great changes. Beginning with the Phillips Robinson Chapel in 1969, the church constructed a 300-seat auditorium in 1972. It built the fellowship hall in 1989 and a church office complex in 1993. The church plans to move to a 36-acre property on New Shackle Island Road in the near future. Over the years, the dynamic nature of the church's facilities has served as a mirror for its ever-increasing role in the community.

Hendersonville is a better place because of the work of the Bible Baptist Church and its congregation. I am sure the church will continue to make a positive difference in the community for the next 35 years, and I congratulate the congregation and pastor Jim Crockett for all the good work they have done.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL  
RILEY P. PORTER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Arkansan and an outstanding citizen with a long history of service to his country. I am proud to recognize Riley P. Porter and congratulate him on his recent promotion from Colonel to Brigadier General.

Born and raised in Arkansas, Gen. Porter is a native of West Helena, and a 1974 graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Upon completion of his degree in business administration and marketing, Gen. Porter committed to the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

After completing a rigorous pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Gen. Porter's commitment to service continued by attending the Strategic Air Command Combat Crew Training in the KC-135 at Castle Air Force Base in California. In 1981, Gen. Porter joined the Arkansas Air National Guard at the Little Rock Air Force Base and is now an accomplished command pilot with more than 5,700 flying hours in training, tanker and airlift aircraft.

Gen. Porter's abilities and leadership are exemplified in the many awards and decorations he has earned, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster, and the National Defense Service Medal with service star.

Gen. Porter continues to serve his country with distinction as the Chief of Staff for the Arkansas Air National Guard and Joint Force Component Commander. Throughout his career, Brigadier General Riley P. Porter has served his country with honor and dignity. On behalf of the Congress, I would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for his service and commitment to our great Nation.

HONORING BECCA KERN

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young individual from my district who recently won the honor of "Mayor For The Day" of Elmhurst, Illinois. Miss Becca Kern, who is in Sixth Grade at Visitation Catholic School, won this honor by composing the following essay in 50 words or less:

"Good citizenship is important in Elmhurst because. . . ."

Citizenship means contributing to the community. In Elmhurst, our town relies on each other. People taking the time to make it a fun, safe, and successful community. I am proud to be a citizen of this town because everyone in Elmhurst makes a contribution to its greatness."

RECOGNIZING FOUNDING FATHERS  
OF CITY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Founding Festival of the City of Jackson, Michigan. This celebration commemorates the 175th anniversary of the founding of the City of Jackson, Michigan, and the 150th anniversary of the meeting "Under the Oaks," the first convention of the Republican Party.

New Yorker Horace Blackman arrived at what is now Jackson on July 3rd, 1829. On July 4th, he staked out his 160-acre claim along the banks of the Grand River. Named for President Andrew Jackson, the village also known as Jacksonburgh and Jacksonopolis grew quickly, and became a hub of commerce and transportation in southern Michigan. It became the terminus of the Michigan Central Railroad, which helped to spur economic growth in the region, and served as a starting point for pioneers heading west.

Jackson has played an important role in defending our country. It was the first city in Michigan to muster troops for the Civil War, and made significant contributions to the war effort during WW II, manufacturing materiel and supplies.

Jackson was a leader in the automotive industry, with 23 different cars manufactured in the City, including the "Jackson" automobile. Both Buick automobiles and Ritz Crackers were originally manufactured in Jackson. Gilbert's Chocolates, Sperton Electronics, and the All-Star Dairy also call Jackson home.

July 6, 2004 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Under the Oaks meeting in Jackson, MI. On this day in 1854, the name "Republican" was used in affiliation with a political party for the first time in the history of the United States of America. With its seeds sown at meetings in Ripon, Wisconsin; Friendship, NY; and Bangor, Maine, the movement took root at the meeting in Jackson, adopting a platform, nominating candidates, and formally adopting the name "Republican."

Called to the City of Jackson by Charles V. DeLand, editor of the Jackson American Cit-

izen newspaper, thousands of former Whigs, FreeSoilers, disgruntled Democrats, and others assembled in Jackson to consider further anti-slavery actions. The call was taken up by newspapers throughout the state to meet on the 6th of July 1854. The crowd of more than 3,000 quickly filled Bronson Hall to overflowing, and the meeting adjourned to the oak grove on Morgan's Forty, at what is now the corner of Franklin and Second streets. At this meeting "Under the Oaks," the first Republican platform was passed, the first Republican candidates were nominated, and the name "Republican" was formally adopted. It is only fitting that this city, that also played an important role in the Underground Railroad, is where the first political platform calling for the abolition of slavery would be adopted. Thus was born the Grand Old Party.

At the time of year that we celebrate the founding of the United States of America, it is my great honor to recognize the founding of Jackson, Michigan, a truly American city born on the fourth of July, and of that Grand Old Party, the Republicans.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHNNY RAY  
YOUNGBLOOD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 17, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood in recognition of his spiritual leadership and contributions to the community.

Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood is without a doubt, one of the leading theologians of his time. His commitment to the call of spiritual healing, racial parity, social justice and economic equity for all people has garnered him national recognition as a preacher, national leader, public advocate, motivator, writer and teacher. Now in his 30th year serving as senior pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist church and 3rd year as senior pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, both located in Brooklyn, New York, he has completed more than a quarter of a century pastoring to God's people.

In May of 1990, Youngblood received his Doctorate of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he studied with an elite group of preachers from across the country as a Samuel D. Proctor Fellow. Dr. Youngblood earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity in Rochester, New York and his bachelor's degree from Dillard University in New Orleans. Dr. Youngblood is now single and a father of three sons, Joel Ray, Jason Royce and Johnny Jenell, and the grandfather of Donny Lynn, Joshua, Jalen and Jordyn.

Dr. Youngblood has earned national recognition because of his work with East Brooklyn Congregations (EBC), an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. He is credited through EBC with spearheading the Nehemiah Housing project, which to date has constructed approximately 2,850 owner-occupied single family homes in some of the most devastated communities in Brooklyn. He has served as national spokesman for the group and in 1990, was recognized in the Congressional Record for his trailblazing work with the project. Dr. Youngblood is a subject of the